

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 18 and 20 - 22 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled.

In item 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 2, 5, 7 - 8 and 10 - 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 6,058,844 to Niemiec ("NIEMIEC") in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,508,033 to Fischer ("FISCHER"), U. S. Patent No. 3,238,869 to West et al ("WEST") and U. S. Patent No. 3,875,682 to Justus et al ("JUSTUS"). In item 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 3 - 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over NIEMIEC in view of FISCHER, WEST and JUSTUS, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,550,390 to Frankenberger ("FRANKENBERGER"). In item 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over NIEMIEC in view of FISCHER, WEST and JUSTUS, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,913,471 to Makosch et al ("MAKOSCH").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections, as applied to the amended claims.

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More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to recite, among other limitations:

a pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer for conveying the web along said path with a given tensile stress that is considerably lower than a tensile stress in a printing path upstream of said at least one press cylinder, **said given tensile stress being less than 50 N/m;** [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant's independent claims 7 and 14 have been amended to additionally recite a tensile stress in the drying path being less than 50 N/m, among other limitations. The amendments to Applicant's independent claims are supported by originally filed claim 19, now canceled, as well as by the specification of the instant application. For example, on page 24 of the instant application, lines 22 - 26, which states:

As compared with conventional 500 N/m tensile stress, the value can be reduced, for example, to about 50 N/m or even less. Given such low tensile stresses, the web 4 can form a meander-like web path 36 whose radii of curvature are small, preferably can be less than about 200 mm. [emphasis added by Applicant]

More particularly, as pointed out on page 24 of the instant application, line 22, the conventional tensile stress in the printing path is around 500 N/m, or more particularly at present, around 470 N/m. However, Applicant's claims affirmatively recite a tensile stress of about only 10% of the conventionally used tensile stress. This particular, greatly

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reduced tensile stress (i.e., only about 10% of conventional tensile stress) is neither taught, nor suggested in the cited references.

More particularly, with regard to Applicant's former claim 19 (which originally recited the limitation of a tensile stress less than 50 N/m), page 5 of the Office Action stated, in part:

With respect to claims 19 and 20, although Niemiec does not explicitly teach controlling the second tensile stress to a value less than 50 N/m, . . . , these values would appear to be specific to a given application and could be readily determined by routine experimentation.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action, which implied that routine experimentation would result in a tensile stress less than 50 N/m. As stated in the Office Action, the Niemic reference does not teach controlling a tensile stress in the drying path to be less than 50 N/m. In fact, none of the cited references teaches or suggests a tensile stress in the drying path being less than 50 N/m. Nor would a tensile stress in the drying path being less than 50 N/m, by obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, from a reading of the cited references.

More particularly, as stated above, conventional devices use a stress of about 470 - 500 N/m. This number would be known to

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a person of skill in the art. Whereas the Office Action alleges that "routine experimentation" would result in Applicant's claimed invention, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant's reduced tensile stress in the drying path (i.e., to about 10% of the conventional tensile stress) is directly contrary to convention and the common knowledge of people skilled in this art. **Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art.** Nothing in the references themselves, or in the ordinary skill in the art, would **motivate** a person of ordinary skill in this art to reduce the tensile stress in the drying path so significantly, contrary to conventional practice.

As such, Applicant's claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 7 and 14. Claims 1, 7 and 14 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The

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dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 7 or 14.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 18 and 20 - 22 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

Additionally, please consider the present as a petition for a one (1) month extension of time, and please provide a one (1) month extension of time, to and including, January 22, 2007, to respond to the present Office Action.

The extension fee for response within a period of one (1) month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$120.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please provide any additional extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any other fees that might be due with

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respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of
Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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